



California Department of Fish and Game Deer Management Program 2005 Deer Zone Information

Wildlife Programs Branch
1812 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95814

Northern California and North Coast Region

General Deer Hunting Information For

ZONE X-3a **and** **Area-Specific Archery Hunt A-5** (No Additional Hunts Scheduled)

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DEER HUNT ZONE

This information sheet has been prepared to assist deer hunters applying for, or planning to hunt in, Zone X-3a located in portions of Lassen and Modoc counties. The following information should be useful to hunters for archery season (A-5; Zone X-3a Archery Hunt), Zone X-3a general season and "additional hunts" within this geographic area. For more specific information or additional questions regarding this area, contact the Northern California and North Coast Region Office, 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA 96001; (530-225-2300).

REGULATIONS

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the current hunting regulations available online at:

<http://www.fgc.ca.gov/html/regs.html>

The 2005 deer hunting regulations specific for Zone X-3a (general season tag), Area-Specific Archery Hunt A-5 (archery season only tag), and any additional hunts are at the end of this sheet.

To hunt deer during the archery season in Zone X-3a, hunters must possess an A-5 hunt tag (Zone X-3a Archery Hunt). This tag is valid **ONLY** during the prescribed archery season and **may not** be used to hunt deer during the general zone season, even if using archery equipment.

To hunt deer during the general season (rifle) in Zone X-3a, a hunter must possess a Zone X-3a tag. This tag is valid **ONLY** during the prescribed general season for that zone. These tags **may not** be used to hunt deer during the Hunt A-5 archery season, even if using archery equipment.

This zone is a popular deer hunting area with lower tag quotas. Any additional deer hunts in Zone X-3a are listed in the Additional Deer Hunts section, below. Typically, tags for Zone X-3a, Hunt A-5 and any additional deer hunts are in high demand and distributed through the Department's Big Game Drawing held in June. To hunt in this area, hunters must plan ahead and are encouraged to submit hunt applications by late May. For information regarding deer tag application procedures and obtaining a deer tag for this area, see the Big Game Hunting Booklet, available on-line at:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/biggame/biggamebook.html>

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill; attach the tag to the antlers, or ear if antlerless; have the tag validated and countersigned; and return the completed report card portion to the Department within 30 days of taking a deer.

LAND OWNERSHIP/PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES

Zone X-3a contains a mixture of both public and private lands. Remember you must obtain and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced. Public lands within Zone X-3a are administered by the Lassen and Modoc National Forests (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). For information regarding these lands contact the following:

USFS Offices:

Lassen National Forest, 2550 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130 (530-257-2151)
Modoc National Forest, 800 West 12th Street, Alturas, California 96101 (530-233-5811)

BLM Offices:

Alturas District, 708 West Twelfth Street, Alturas, CA 96101 (530-233-4666)
Susanville District, 355 2545 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130 (530-257-5381)

In Zone X-3a and other zones throughout California, additional deer hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more information on the PLM and to obtain a list of participating ranches, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/plm.html>

MAPS

For general maps detailing individual zone or additional deer hunt boundaries, go to the following link:

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer_maps.html

The most comprehensive maps of the area are the Modoc and Lassen National Forest maps. USFS maps are available at all USFS offices or you can contact the USFS Pacific Southwest Regional Office at: 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592 (707-562-8737).

BLM surface management maps may also be useful. However, because Zone X-3a covers such a large area, several maps are needed to depict it entirely. BLM surface management maps for Zone X-3a include the Alturas, Burney, Eagle Lake, McArthur, and Tule Lake maps. You can purchase these maps at BLM district offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916- 978-4400).

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially for topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps may also be available from sporting goods, backpacking or engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly at: Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (888-ASK-USGS).

ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS

Although there is a lot of private land in Zone X-3a, there are extensive tracts of public lands with excellent access. Primary roadways in Zone X-3a are State Highway 139 (central X-3a), State Highway 299 (northern X-3a) and State Highway 395 (eastern X-3a). Many County, USFS and BLM roads branch off of these primary roadways providing access to public lands.

WEATHER CONDITIONS/TRAVEL TIPS

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. The weather is usually quite hot and dry, but early storms are not uncommon. Snow fall will be a rare occurrence with these storms but heavy rains can make many roads very difficult, if not impossible, to travel. You should be prepared with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

Zone X-3a covers a large geographic area. The terrain can be very steep and rugged and vegetation can be extremely dense. As you should do in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good

spare tire, extra water, etc. Use care when operating any vehicle off-road and check with the BLM or USFS for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area. Horses can be useful in some portions of X-3a. However, remember that it may be necessary to carry supplemental horse feed into the back country. Contact the local USFS and/or BLM office for more information regarding forage conditions for livestock.

CAMPING

There are numerous designated campgrounds within Zone X-3a. The facilities available at these campgrounds vary from primitive campsites to campsites with running water and showers. Most campgrounds are clearly marked on USFS and BLM maps. Camping outside of designated campgrounds is usually permitted on BLM and USFS lands. However, during fire season special regulations may apply and it will be necessary to obtain a fire permit from the USFS or BLM. You can also check with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection office for rules in specific areas.

Please, DO NOT camp or hunt for prolonged periods near water sources important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining for over 30 minutes and within 200 yards of an artificial water source including guzzlers or horizontal wells on public lands within California is a Fish and Game violation (Title 14, Section 730). You can pack water, wildlife can't.

HARVEST INFORMATION

Information on deer harvest for this area is available in tables contained in the annual Deer Kill Reports available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerhunt.html> The most useful tables for the purposes of planning or applying for hunts in this area are Tables 1b (Harvest and Success Information), 2a (Antler Class Information) and 10b (Drawing Statistics).

HERD CONDITIONS AND HABITATS

The deer population in Zone X-3a is considered stable to slightly declining, yet considerably below levels seen in the late 1960's and 1970's. As with most deer herds in California and other western states, the long-term population trend has been on a steady decline since the 1960's and 1970's. These long-term declines have been due to land management practices that have precluded fire, resulting in changes toward more mature and less diverse habitats, and reduced quality and quantity of deer habitats. Short-term fluctuations in deer populations are usually attributed to weather events that affect forage production.

The subspecies of deer inhabiting Zone X-3a is the Rocky Mountain mule deer. Deer in Zone X-3a are considered migratory. Deer in this area generally move to higher elevations in late spring and will remain until the first heavy fall storms force them down below the snow line. This downward movement often occurs during the hunting season, so hunters should be prepared to move to lower areas later in the season after stormy weather.

The vegetation is highly varied throughout Zone X-3a ranging from low sage, sagebrush, bitterbrush, aspen, juniper and hardwood-conifer to conifer habitats. Generally speaking, deer populations in this area respond favorably to vegetation disturbances that enhance brush species (wildfire and timber harvesting). Riparian areas (areas along watercourses), recently burned areas or clear cuts that have re-sprouted with brush are good areas to hunt. Typically, lower densities of deer are observed in the more densely forested areas or in older, more decadent brushlands.

HUNTING TIPS AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR DEER

Successful hunters often spend a considerable amount of time scouting pre-season, locating individual or groups of deer, recently used deer trails, and feeding and bedding areas. You may not see many deer from the roads in this area and generally the more successful hunters do more hiking to locate deer. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes can be very helpful for locating and identifying deer at greater distances. In general, attempt to hunt areas that are away from other activities such as concentrations of hunters, vehicles, and/or livestock.

The best hunting is near stands of bitterbrush, mountain mahogany, or tall sagebrush, and in burns that

have re-sprouted with brush. Historically, some of the more popular and productive areas in Zone X-3a include: Adin Mountain, Ash Valley, Boyd Hill, Buck Flat, Bullard Ridge, Cal Pines, Delta Lake, Doe Springs, Fox Mountain, Gehrig, Gobblers Knob, Happy Camp, Hunsinger Flat, Knox Mountain, Likely Mountain, Manzanita Lookout, Rucker Hill, Snag Mountain, Sweagert Flat, Washington Mountain and Whiting Mountain.

For additional information about deer hunting in California, see the Department's publication "Guide To Hunting Deer In California" at the following web site:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerguide.pdf>

ADDITIONAL DEER HUNTS

In 2005, there are no additional deer hunts scheduled in Zone X-3a.

2005 ZONE AND ADDITIONAL HUNT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

§ 360. Deer.

Except as otherwise provided in this Title 14, deer may be taken only as follows:

(b) X-Zone Hunts.

(3) Zone X-3a.

(A) Area: In those portions of Lassen and Modoc counties within a line beginning at the intersection of the Lookout-Hackamore Road and Highway 139; southeast on Highway 139 to Highway 299; east on Highway 299 to Highway 395 in Alturas; south on Highway 395 to the Termo-Grasshopper Road (Lassen County 513); west on the Termo-Grasshopper Road to Highway 139; south on Highway 139 to the Cleghorn Road (Lassen County 521); west and north on the Cleghorn Road to Lassen County Road 519 near Coulthurst Flat; west on Lassen County Road 519 to U.S. Forest Service Designated Through Route 22 near Gooch Mountain; west and north on U.S. Forest Service Designated Through Route 22 to the Little Valley Road (Lassen County 404); north on the Little Valley Road to the Western Pacific Railroad; northeast on the Western Pacific Railroad to Horse Creek; northwest on Horse Creek to the Pit River; north on the Pit River to Highway 299 at Bieber; northeast on Highway 299 to the Bieber-Lookout-Hackamore Road; north along the Bieber-Lookout-Hackamore Road to the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The season in Zone X-3a shall open on the first Saturday in October and extend for 16 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (See subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 295.

§ 361. Archery Deer Hunting.

(b) Archery Hunting With Area-specific Archery Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, only during the archery seasons as follows:

(4) A-5 (Zone X-3a Archery Hunt).

(A) Area: As described in subsection 360(b)(3)(A).

(B) Season: The archery season for hunt A-5 (Zone X-3a Archery Hunt) shall open on the third Saturday in August and extend for 23 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 20.

(c) Archery Hunting with Archery Only Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, during the archery seasons and general seasons as follows:

(1) Number of Archery Only Tags Permitted. A person may obtain an archery only tag using a one-deer tag application and a second archery only tag using a second deer tag application.

(2) Zones in Which Archery Only Tags are Valid. An archery only tag is valid for hunt G-10, and during the archery season and general season in all zones except C-1 through C-4 and X-1 through X-12.

(3) Areas: As described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(4) Seasons: The archery season and general seasons are provided in subsection 361(a) above and in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(5) Bag and Possession Limit: All bag and possession limits per zone are the same as those described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(d) Hunting Area Limitations. Archers not in possession of an archery only tag may hunt only in the zone, zones, or areas for which they have a general tag or an area-specific archery tag. (Refer to subsection 361(c)(2) for zones in which archery only tags are valid).

(e) Crossbow Prohibition. Except as provided in subsection 354(j), crossbows may not be used during any archery season or during the general season when using an archery only tag.

**** GOOD LUCK! ****